

UPSTAIRS BULLETIN

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An Educational Group

LOVE is an endless mystery, for it
has nothing else to explain it.
- Tagore.

Finally we saw a modern day Dance Company that achieved happiness and bliss in their accelerated movements of dance - the truly magnificent MAZOWSZE Polish Folk group recently at the Auditorium Theatre - and they more than most dancers have less to be happy about in their world. With far less pretension they put more joy in their dance than most companies do. I feel very sorry for those who did not attend.

News in the Bulletin is very much like all news in the trade papers - stale if you have heard it and news if you have not. At the Cleveland Ballet Summer School tryouts ANTHONY VAVER won a summer scholarship with his brother JON next in line - because of his green years it seemed wise not to take advantage of it at this time. Needless to say, we were proud. Up in Alaska STEVE PRIMIS shepherded a group of his students to a Robert Joffrey tryout and one of his better ones was offered a summer scholarship in New York. SCOTT SCHLEXER will fly to Japan this summer to dance in a series of Swan Lake performances - he was chosen by David Wall of the Royal Ballet to dance in these performances. Sometime back LAUREN ROUSE left the Pittsburgh Ballet to be a soloist in the Robert Joffrey Ballet Company and soon after NANCY GLYNN turns up as a soloist in the Hannover Ballet in Germany. Since other prominent members of that company have left too. Toward the end of April JOAN GREGOR will be back on land - off the cruise ships and in search of work on dry land - we wish it could be here - but Chicago had that (not new) disease "the Chicago Syndrome" - so titled by the Tribune columnist Bob Greene - meaning you had to leave Chicago to get any recognition of success - in any profession. This is something that Stone Camryn have preached for many a year in the past - and those who were wise did not suffer from the Chicago Syndrome. While still speaking of preaching - away back in the early 30's TOM REED came to us from an old friend JUNE

RUNYON in Tulsa, Oklahoma to study ballet - he left us by his own choice and recently we heard from him in the form of an apology to tell us that he is now the Rector of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. It was a beautiful letter of gratitude for his training which he never recognised as a pupil - however late it is wonderful for us to hear that we have in any way influenced a student to be a success in ANY profession. We hear this sort of thing more and more in the mail now and would welcome others to write likewise. The pupils of JOHN KRIZAS era in the school will know the name of BERENICE HOSPIS who was with us at that time - now in her 60's and a mother of several is sentimental about those days in the Berwyn community. MARK TRUDEAU we hear via the grapevine is now married and dancing in the Mary Day Company in Washington D. C. JOHN MICHAEL SHARP - or Sharp No. 2 - is going great guns in the Cincinnati Ballet Company - having danced the lead in "Le Combat" the ballet JOHN KRIZA was so special in - so our JOHN cannot be doing so badly. We recently had lunch with him at the restored ISI Grill. JOAN EHRENBERG an expert on many things recently invited a group from the Yoga class for a sample of Wok cooking of which she is a master (had a frightful time finding the correct spelling for Wok) - Bentley insisted it had to be in the dictionary because it was one of the oldest forms of cooking - after all he added China gave us the Wok and gun powder - and I added the typewriter - which I cannot prove, but it is a good story. JOAN will be going to Africa this summer - don't you wonder what she will bring back from there - unless it might be a baked hippopotamus steak - which we once heard was Carol Channing's favorite delicacy. Now for all the bad news - CUZ SUTTON's husband died of a heart attack and was buried in Hawaii. RUTH PAGE recently had a hip replacement - the current thing to do - several other friends had the same - ETTA SCHWARTZ of the Leather Shop on Madison and Bentley's friend of the past in New York - LISAN KAYE. Etta and Ruth seem to be doing well but poor Lisan not so well. Page's phobia of not missing a concert gets her there if someone has

to drag her there. YOLANDA ZACHARAIIS was recently hospitalized for more serious surgery and is doing as well as can be expected. Her good friend JOAN JACOBS keeps us informed. JUDITH SVALANDER was also in the hospital at the same time with a dangerous scare but it turned out well. At the same time, I too was in for more clean up surgery. DAN REILY was home from Amsterdam to recuperate from a leg injury -which when he got back to Holland the famous Dancer's Doctor Dr. Thomason said it did not need a cast - just a rest. Much more serious were KAREN TIM's problems. After 10 years in the Netherlands Dans Theatre with no injury she had a run of bad luck with her first injury at the Metropolitan season last July in New York. Complicated with other medical problems. She will be able to return for their spring season and back again to the Met. When they last appeared at the Met, Anthony Tudor singled her out for a backstage visit as the one he most enjoyed.

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TEACHERS of dance are the unsung heroes and heroines of the dance profession. They create all the beauty and expertise of the finished dancer (occasionally - artist) that the dancer capitalizes on and the teacher is rarely thanked. As the dancer becomes more and more successful their credits pile up - and soon the source of their success is eventually dropped from the credits. It is usually the more famous ones who love to throw in only the highly advertised schools. (Maybe it is the press - I will grant that much.) But the reward of the teacher is only having created this miracle - an incomplete human being. Teachers must and do expect this treatment, as much as it might irk them.

Our school has produced a growing list of former students that have taken up teaching as a profession. And they are scattered all over the globe as their life disperses them - even if it is to end up in Alaska - Sweden - Canada - Phoenix - or Loveland, Colorado. One day soon when I stop teaching altogether myself I am going to visit their classes and watch them teach. It is one thing to have had the best of training, and another to impart it to a beginning student where it really counts. With a few exceptions we have not been able to judge whether they are doing a good job or not. There is one teacher we have had first hand knowledge of her ability and this is JUDITH SVALANDER. She teaches in Crystal Lake, close enough for her students to attend our classes. Another one who is excellent is EDITH HENNINGTON in Aurora. In the past we have tried to engage Edith to teach for us with no success but this summer in our very limited

summer course we will have JUDITH SVALANDER as an assistant so that students who have had no contact with her will be introduced to her fine work. In a later Bulletin I will touch on all the Stone Camryn alumni that have chosen teaching as a way of life.

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As I was about to mail this to the printer news came that Berenice Holmes has passed away from a stroke while watching a class being taught in her near north side studio. In the past few years we have not heard much about her but at one time she was a very beautiful dancer trained by Adolph Bolm. She became one of the best teachers of children - superior to most. Both Mr. Stone and I had danced with her in the 30's.

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COLLECTING.

It is perhaps a more fortunate destiny to have a taste for collecting shells than to be born a millionaire.

- Robert Louis Stevenson.

The passion for collecting begins when one is very young. It begins with children collecting colorful rocks - bits of broken china embedded with flower patterns - old bottles from old dumps - herbariums - doll's heads and shoulders - arrow-heads - matches - postage stamps - figurines of all kinds - pictures of movie stars - pictures of loved ones - rose petals - pressed flowers - dried and scented leaves - marbles - coins - or objects with religious significance - or with no significance whatsoever - just is an object treasured. As senseless as it sometimes seems, a lifetime profession may evolve out of these childish habits of collecting.

At the age of twenty I was engaged to manage a floral store in Boise, Idaho and to do all of their design work. I had found a nice room in a doctor's home and found across the street a boarding house for young businessmen. My hours were very long and what extra time I had was spent in this room with its bare walls, usually reading.

When one has a room to one's self that is the beginning of a home and soon one begins to fill in the bare spots with collectables. I began first to cover the walls with Maxfield Parrish prints - "The Dinky Bird" and "The King's Son" until there was no wall space left. Then my craze turned to books on adventure and history. I became very involved in Frederick O'Brien's stories of Tahiti -

Easter Island - Pitcairn - Papeete - Marquesas - Tongareva - Christman Island - Polynesia - all were names of magical places that I barely escaped going to. The thought of the tranquil life that Somerset Maugham wrote about in his famous book "The Moon and Sixpence" had a strong grip on my youthful passions. My Scotch practicality got the best of me in the end and I left for Chicago with a paltry \$300 in my pocket to study Ballet. I left behind all the Parrish prints and books. The only thing I took with me was a small model Grecian figurine (bought to represent a perfect male figure) acquired for a correspondence course I took in costume and dress design. (this object is still with me).

Collecting need not always be of tangible objects. I had at the time a habit of changing my name for each new interest. My designer's name was Ian Eryk. At the same time I had an interest switch to Spanish dance because of friends in the local Basque colony who dubbed me Rolfe Molina. My business name became W. Rolfe Cameron. The Rolfe had another connotation because of a boyhood crush on a school chum whose name was Ralph Wells in my Agricultural School days - I was 12. Years later when I became a professional dancer I became Walter Camryn. I was having a conflict with another person with my own legal name - Walter Hugh Cameron.

Coming to Chicago in the summer of 1927 with almost no possessions I could and did begin

all over again. The first couple of years in Chicago I must have moved ten times - mostly in search of a clean room and I soon found out that if you wanted a clean room you had to clean it yourself. Again I collected books which on my first Opera tour they had to be dispensed with - again books that could not be replaced. In Boise I had an autobiography of Cecchetti telling about his family's tours and their hardships travelling in Italy at that time. I've never seen the book since.

Which - skip a couple of more Opera tours and it finds me on North Avenue in an empty studio with only a table - a chair and a mattress. This was not for long however because things began to accumulate and in no time at all I was swamped with collectables. Over the years I moved from time to time into larger studios and I now find myself owner of complete sets of my favorite writers ...Kazantakis - Berenson - Krutch - Renault - Mishima - Hesse - Gide - Fowlie - the early American authors and biographies by the dozens - pictures - records - duck china - memorabilia - dance notes - photographs - antique furniture and lamps - odds and ends that I should donate to a Church bizarre.

Collect if you will but in time some poor soul must dispose of them after you are gone. In my case it all came about from picking up pretty rocks - or things that shine. A lesson I must have learned from a pack-rat in some old log cabin out in Montana.